

REMARKS ON OPENING THE: NCIP MINISTERIAL MEETING 20 DEC 18

- Honorable Ministers/Cabinet Secretaries
- Chiefs of Security Service
- Permanent secretaries and Principle Secretaries
- NCIP National Coordinators
- Experts
- All Protocols observed
- Ladies and Gentlemen

A very good morning to you all!

Allow me to thank the People and the Government of the Republic of Uganda for the excellent hospitality accorded to us and our respective delegations since our arrival at Entebbe Airport.

I know there are many clusters but this is a most vibrant sector and should remain so.

The Chiefs of Security services and Experts have been deliberating on pending implementation Mechanisms of the Peace and Security Pact Signed by our Heads of States in 2014 here in Kampala. They have come up with recommendations we are here to deliberate on and adopt for implementation to start.

Honorable Ministers allow me to note that Chiefs of Security Services came up with implementation matrix to serve as a road map for the implementation since the signing of the Mutual Peace and Security Cooperation in 2014.

The different objectives entailed in the implementation matrix of the peace and security cluster of the Northern Corridor Integration Projects are very crucial to the co-existence of our countries.

The Cooperation areas in the Mutual Peace and security Pact emphasize the priority areas of all our law enforcement/Police agencies, migration departments, Disaster and refugee issues, wild Life management issues Corrections and Prisons where cooperation is

pertinent in curtailing and mitigating all negative consequences that are brought by transnational and organized crime and other security issues that may create insecurity in our region.

Honorable Ministers, allow me to highlight that transnational crimes and other security challenges we face in our region, need everybody's attention and effort, if meaningful peace and security is to be guaranteed.

We should understand that the practical translation of the work of our cluster is the creation of one safe, secure and near homogeneous law enforcement space covering the whole of Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya. Our Governments need to assure our citizens and our citizens need to take their human, social and economic rights, their safety and security for granted anywhere on our respective territories. Rwanda needs to have Uganda's back, just as Uganda needs to have Rwanda's back; Uganda needs to have Kenya's back just as Kenya needs to have Uganda's back. The intelligence, law enforcement, immigration, refugee and wildlife management communities need to be walking this talk 24/7.

This is what we should understand to amount to the realization of our Peace and Security pact. We also understand that it is within our means to achieve all our objectives.

Anything short of this, any delay to take the essential steps in the accession or implementation process will not just be a delay, it will be the weak link in the chain and a wide-open window for insecurity from criminal infiltration, transnational organized crime, armed groups and similar threats. While we take note and ask for more time to consult on particular aspects of our Pact let us also remember that this is the price, we pay for it, and choose to act fast.

In this regard, I urge all of us here to maintain the focus, add more vigor and enhance our partnerships as we pursue our common goals and mutual interests going forward.

I would like to conclude by reminding ourselves that there is always going to be a lot of work to do but this moment provides us an opportunity to reflect and re-examine what we have been able to do and what is required of us.

Thank you all for your kind attention.

I wish you all a Merry x-mass and a very happy new year, and you know that Rwanda is the place to go so each is welcome.